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13 August 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: CPY

SUBJECT: Comments on "Status Report on the National Psychological Effort and First Progress Report of the Psychological Strategy Board"

REFERENCE: CPY Memorandum of 11 August 1952 on above subject

1. This Division concurs in general with the comments prepared by your staff.

2. The following additional comments are forwarded for your consideration:

a. Paragraph I 1.A. page 3. In South and Southeast Asia. It is suggested that the following sentence be inserted after the sentence ending with the word "area": "The success of the Chinese Communists in consolidating their position of military, geographic, and political preeminence on the Asian mainland is a strong deterrent to the open adoption of anti-Communist measures by the weak and vulnerable states to the south."

b. Paragraph I 1.A. page 3. In Formosa and Japan. It is recommended that the word "significant" be inserted between the words "some" and "gains."

c. Paragraph I 4. page 4. It is suggested that in the second part of the second sentence, the words "or residual influence" be inserted after the word "domination" and that the word "colonial" before the word "policies" be deleted.

d. Paragraph I B. page 5. Behind the Iron Curtain. It should be noted that the Chinese Communists have consolidated their position and thus increased their strength. The next paragraph relevant to the problems incident to a build-up of resources and capabilities to reduce Communism in China is well stated and important.

e. Paragraph I D. page 6. Organizational Progress. In our opinion, this is an over-optimistic summation. However, it is recognized that the Far East remains a trouble spot policy-wise.

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f. Annex A, The Foreign Information Program, and Annex C, The Mutual Security Agency. It is to be noted that those who formulate and implement the information programs of these agencies recognize the need to shift emphasis to the indigenous and non-official approach (See particularly Annex A, paragraph 5.B. and Annex C, page 1, lines 5-9). In view of this, and of the fact that CIA is commissioned to work in that field, attention might be called in the summary to the need for redelineation of responsibility and for continued very close coordination.

g. Annex B. Summary of the Report of the Department of Defense. As pointed out by your staff, Defense raises two major points for resolution: (1) it requests clarification of the role and obligations of the military establishment in psychological operations, and (2) it states the opinion that the nation's military establishment can render more effective support to the national psychological program if its wartime potentials are exploited to the maximum during the cold war period. In view of these Defense views, and those of State and MSA mentioned in paragraph f. above, the Director may consider it appropriate to suggest to appropriate authority a reexamination of the entire question of inter-agency coordination mechanisms for achieving national psychological objectives.

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Chief, FE

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